

NEWS RELEASE

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NORTH CAROLINA YIELDS DECREASE AS DROUGHT CONTINUES

Flue-cured tobacco production is forecast at 330 million pounds, 2% above the 324 million pounds produced in 2006. Acres for harvest are estimated at 165,000, up 10,000 acres from last year. Yield per acre is forecast at 2,000 pounds, down 90 pounds from last year and 200 pounds from last months forecast.

Burley tobacco production is forecast at 6.4 million pounds, slightly below the 6.46 million pounds in 2006. Yield is forecast at 1,600 pounds per acre, 100 pounds less than last year's crop. Area for harvest is forecast at 4,000 acres, 200 acres more than was harvested in 2006.

Cotton production is forecast at 630,000 bales, down 17% from last month's forecast. Planted acres, harvested acres and yield were reduced from the August forecast. Planted acres were reduced to 500,000 with acres for harvest adjusted down to 495,000. The yield forecast was lowered from 682 pounds per acre in August to 611 pounds. This compares to 713 pounds per acre for the 2006 crop.

Corn for grain production is forecast at 91.67 million bushels, 6% less than last year. Yield is forecast at 89 bushels per acre, down from last year's record high yield of 132 bushels per acre. This is 5 bushels below last month's forecast and 43 bushels lower than the 2006 crop. Acres harvested are expected at 1.03 million, up 290,000 from 2006.

Soybean production is forecast at 30.1 million bushels, down 31% from last year. Yield is forecast to average 22 bushels per acre, down 5 bushels per acre from last month and down from last year's 32 bushels. If realized, this will be the lowest yield since 1983. Farmers expect to harvest 1.37 million acres, up 10,000 acres from last year.

Peanut production is forecast at 211.6 million pounds, down 21% from 2006. Harvested area is projected at 92,000 acres compared to previous year's 84,000 acres. Yield per acre is forecast at 2,300 pounds, down 900 pounds per acre from 2006 and 700 pounds from last month's forecast.

During the month of August above normal temperatures were experienced in North Carolina. Most areas of the State received limited rainfall amounts increasing the severity of the drought. Crop progress for corn and cotton continued to progress ahead of the previous year and the 5-year average while the soybean crop progress was behind. By month's end, soil moisture across the State was rated 55% very short, 36% short, 9% adequate, and 0% surplus.

U.S. Flue-cured tobacco production is expected to total 458 million pounds, 8% below last month but up 2% from 2006. **U.S. Burley** production is expected to total 198 million pounds, down 6% from the August forecast and 9% below last year. **U.S. Corn** production is forecast at 13.3 billion bushels, up 2% from last month and 26% above 2006. **U.S. Cotton** production is forecast at 17.8 million 480-pound bales, up 3% from last month but down 17% from last year's 21.6 million bales. **U.S. Peanut** production is forecast at 3.34 billion pounds, down 1% from last month and down 4% from last year's crop.

(Table on back)

NORTH CAROLINA CROPS: ACRES, YIELD AND PRODUCTION, SEPTEMBER 1, 2007

CROPS	UNIT	NORTH CAROLINA						
		ACRES HARVESTED		YIELD		PRODUCTION		PERCENT
		2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007	CHANGE
		Thousands				Thousands		+/-
Corn for Grain	Bu.	740	1,030	132	89	97,680	91,670	-6
Cotton, Upland ¹	Lb.	865	495	713	611	1,285	630	-51
Peanuts	Lb.	84	92	3,200	2,300	268,800	211,600	-21
Soybeans for Beans	Bu.	1,360	1,370	32	22	43,520	30,140	-31
Tobacco: All	Lb.	158.8	169	2,081	1,991	330,410	336,400	+2
Tobacco: Flue Cured	Lb.	155	165	2,090	2,000	323,950	330,000	+2
Tobacco: Burley	Lb.	3.8	4.0	1,700	1,600	6,460	6,400	-1
		UNITED STATES						
		Thousands				Millions		
Corn for Grain	Bu.	70,648	85,418	149.1	155.8	10,534.9	13,308.0	+26
Cotton, All ¹	Lb.	12,731.50	10,543	814	811	21.6	17.8	-17
Peanuts	Lb.	1,209	1,190	2,874	2,803	3,474.5	3,335.2	-4
Soybeans for Beans	Bu.	74,602	63,265	42.7	41.4	3,188.2	2,618.8	-18
Tobacco: All	Lb.	338.9	355.1	2,144	2,023	726.6	718.4	-1
Tobacco: Flue Cured	Lb.	213.1	225	2,095	2,033	446.5	457.5	+2
Tobacco: Burley	Lb.	103.6	105.2	2,095	1,878	217.1	197.5	-9

¹ Production in 480-lb. net weight bales.

